

Practical Atheism

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Robert Becker went to be with Jesus. **In hospital:** Tony & Shirley Murillo. Zach Zarate. Yosef Hilbrant, Chief Rabbi *Brit^{Cov} Avraham, Orthodox Netzarim Shul^{Syn.}*
Netzer = branch, off-shoot of Messiah
- B. **Prayer:** *The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master.*

II. Slide2 Intro: Practical Atheism

- A. Many are like *the Hindu man* who thought he had stored up for himself **many good works**, especially in that he was proud *he never eats any animal substance*. **The missionary** sharing w/him told him that is **impossible**, because every time he **drank water** he was swallowing *1000's of tiny living creatures*. He did not believe it, so the missionary put a drop of water under a **microscope** for him. The man **saw ... and broke the microscope**. [this is how he dealt with the dilemma]
1. Allow me this evening to place all of man's **goodness** under the great microscope of the law of God.
 2. I just ask you to **look & see that** even 1 sinful thought, destroys one's hope for salvation through *your own personal* goodness. **Then** you can choose to **make things right with God, or, break the microscope!**
- B. I guess this Psalm was so important that God included it twice. It is nearly identical to Psalm 53. **Then**, Paul expounds on its meaning **thrice**, in **Rm.3**.
1. We are then *to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it*.

C. Did you know the Bible says, *there is no God?* It says it right here in the 1st verse.

III. Slide3 GOD AND THE FOOLISH (1-5) Read 1-5

- A. **THE ACTION OF FOOLS** (1) *there is no God*
- B. **The fool** says in his heart - Fool is **not** a misguided conviction, **but an irresponsible gesture of defiance**. *Derek Kidner*

1. They can live without God.
2. They are **corrupt** and, they **do abominable deeds** (1b) - They are corrupt and so they do corrupt things.
3. They eat up/devour the righteous (4a) - They *disobey* God and *exploit people made in the image of God*.
4. They do not pray to the Lord (4b) - so the opposite is true, *the righteous call on the Lord* and *He answers*.

C. **THE ABUNDANCE OF FOOLS** (2,3) *no one seeks God*

D. *No one seeks God* - on their own. How would you find an invisible God? You need His magnetic drawing/dragging. Jesus said, *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him*. Jn.6:44

E. **THE ANGUISH OF FOOLS** (4,5) *there they are in great terror*

F. *There they are in great terror* - God's judgement will someday overwhelm them.

G. *God is with the generation of the righteous* - God dwells with these people.

H. Slide4 C.S. Lewis, *In the end, that Face which is the delight or the terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised*.

IV. Slide5 GOD AND THE RIGHTEOUS (6,7) Read 6,7

A. **THE REFUGE** (6)

B. The Lord watches over his people.

C. *The Lord is his refuge* - Heb word, where we get *Massada*. Refuge, protection, security, covering, shelter from danger or hardship.

D. **THE RESCUE** (7)

E. David calls upon the Lord to rescue his people. *Joyful hope*.

F. *Of which group are you a member? And have you made your allegiance known?*

V. Slide6a GOD'S COURT CASE AGAINST SINFUL HUMANITY (Rom.3:9-18)

- A. The 3rd time to talk about this. *The Sewer of Sinful Humanity*. **Read Rom.3**
- B. **Slide6b** The human race is hauled into Gods court and accused of *total depravity*.
1. **Not that** each and every person is a murderer or a sexual deviant, **or that** they can't at times *exhibit kindness and generosity*. The total depravity means that **even the best people are tainted with sin**.
 2. **Since like leprosy:** a leper may appear to be well and whole; his leprosy may be **hidden** at first, **but** the disease is *entrenched in his body and it contaminates his very touch*.
- C. **Slide6c** *Turgenev* the Russian poet hit the mark when he said, *"I don't know what the heart of a bad man is like, but I do know what the heart of a good man is like... and it is terrible!"* [it's our character, our communication, and our conduct]
- D. The phrase *human depravity* means, corruption of our nature, whereby we are inclined to **sin rather than** inclined to holiness. The seat of this depravity is within. External forms of wickedness, *in words and actions*, are only the results and expressions of it.
1. It's not that we are all *as bad as we possibly can be*, **but** that we are sinful through & through.
 2. **Slide6d** Addison Leitch said, *"if the color of sin were blue, every aspect of us would be some shade of blue!"*
 3. morally ruined at our very root
 - a) **Prop** (water bottle). This is *pure drinking water*. **But** if I told you I took an eye-dropper & add a few drops of *raw sewage* to it, *would you drink it?* (no way!)
 - b) It might look pure. It might **not** be as dirty as it could be, **but** it is *contaminated through & through*. There is no part that is not polluted.
 - c) **And**, there is no way it can *purify itself* w/o undergoing some kind of outside purification process! [eg. chlorine tabs to shower water in Haiti]

VI. Slide7a PRACTICAL ATHEISM

- A. The **fool** says (not in his mind but) in his heart -
- B. A **practical atheist** focuses on the idea that one disregards belief in gods and the existence of gods *in day-to-day living*, but doesn't necessarily reject the existence of gods when it comes to *professed beliefs*. [as opposed to *theoretical atheism* who believe there is no god as a matter of *thought*]
- C. Let's go back now and put ourselves under the microscope, instead of just dismissing the text for "those people."
1. Let's look at our own *practical atheism*. Meaning that we as believers believe God to exist & we accept Him as Savior. But you would not know by our **behavior**.
 2. It's when we live our life *as if God doesn't exist*, and live immoral lives ... that too is **foolish!**
- D. Here's the irony: *Can you be a Christian and live as if God doesn't exist? Yes!* And *Can you be a non-Christian and live as if God doesn't exist? Yes!*
1. So a **fool** is not just someone who **is** an atheist. *The fool is one who rejects God's moral standards and lives accordingly.*
 2. Slide7b Luke 12:16-21 *And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*
- E. So let's be *less quick* to call someone else the fool on the outside and look within as **Christians** and ask ourselves ... *Are we living the way God wants us to?* Because if not, maybe we're the ones who are **the fools**. Sean McDowell, adapted from YouTube 2min thought.
- F. The last song: is a proclamation, a decision, a choice, of *Yes I Will!*

G. Keywords: God, hope, judgment, protection, righteousness, salvation, sin.